

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GOJ REITERATES MICRONESIAN CLAIMS POSITION

1. SUMMARY. DURING BRIEFING ON MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS JAPANESE POLCOUNS STRONGLY REITERATED GOJ DESIRE TO TURN OFF ANY USG/MICRONESIAN PUSH FOR FURTHER MICRONESIAN CLAIMS PAYMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT JAPANESE REQUEST, MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATOR PETER ROSENBLATT BRIEFED POLITICAL COUNSELOR TATSUO ARIMA FEBRUARY 10 ON BACKGROUND OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS AND CURRENT STATE OF PLAY, INCLUDING PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF LACK
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OF MICRONESIAN UNITY. AMB. ROSENBLATT ALSO NOTED TARGET DATE OF 1981 FOR TERMINATION OF TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT. ARIMA, WHO HAD MADE IT CLEAR AT OUTSET THAT HIS MAIN INTEREST IN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WAS THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO WAR CLAIMS ISSUE, RESPONDED THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO REITERATE GOJ POSITION ON CLAIMS AS SET FORTH IN NOTE VERBALE NO. P-65

OF OCTOBER 12, 1977 TO EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND TO CONVEY THIS POSITION PERSONALLY TO CONGRESSMAN PHILIP BURTON AND OTHERS ON HILL. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD BEEN TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR SOME TIME TO OBTAIN AN APPOINTMENT WITH BURTON FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. ARIMA STATED THAT GOJ WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SUPPORT BY LEADING FIGURES ON HILL FOR MEASURES APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO PLACE JAPAN IN AN AWKWARD POSITION HE RECALLED SENATOR INOUE'S ACTIONS LAST FALL TO ELIMINATE THE US CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOKYO-BASED UN UNIVERSITY AND REPRESENTATIVE BURTON AND SENATOR JOHNSTON'S ACTIONS IN DRAWING UP SECTION 105 OF PL 95-134, PLACING THE ONUS ON JAPAN FOR PROGRESS ON MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS. ARIMA POINTED OUT THAT IF BURTON'S ACTIONS ON THE CLAIMS ISSUE WERE TAKEN WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF GOJ POSITION, THIS MIGHT INDICATE A CONSCIOUS ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS JAPAN. IF THIS IS THE CASE, HE SAID, THE IMPLICATIONS COULD BE VERY BAD FOR US-JAPAN RELATIONS.

4. ARIMA EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IF THE CLAIMS ISSUE WERE BROUGHT UP AGAIN, IT WOULD RENDER THE GOJ RELUCTANT TO APPROPRIATE ANYTHING AT ALL IN THE WAY OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR MICRONESIA. HE POINTED OUT THAT JAPAN HAD SETTLED ALL OF ITS WAR CLAIMS. REOPENING INDIVIDUAL CLAIMS IN MICRONESIA COULD LEAD TO SIMILAR REQUESTS ELSEWHERE. AMB
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ROSENBLATT POINTED OUT THAT THE MICRONESIANS' PERCEPTION OF HOW WELL WE REPRESENTED THEIR FOREIGN AFFAIRS INTEREST NOW HAD A DIRECT IMPACT ON CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF FREE ASSOCIATION, UNDER WHICH US WOULD CONTINUE TO CARRY RESPONSIBILITY FOR MICRONESIAN FOREIGN RELATIONS. FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS WAS IN BOTH US AND JAPANESE INTERESTS. AMB. ROSENBLATT POINTED OUT THAT US HAD SUCCESSFULLY DISSUADED MICRONESIANS, INCLUDING COM PRESIDENT NAKAYAMA, FROM RAISING ISSUE SO FAR, ON STRENGTH OF GOJ REPRESENTATIONS TO DATE, BUT THAT MICRONESIANS WOULD EVENTUALLY INSIST ON GOING AHEAD. WHEN THAT HAPPENED WE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE GOOD FAITH REQUEST THAT THE GOJ SEE THE MICRONESIANS. ARIM MENTIONED THAT HE HAD HEARD MICRONESIANS WANTED TO COME IN MARCH. ROSENBLATT SAID THAT TIME PERIOD HAD BEEN MENTIONED, BUT THAT WE HAD NO SPECIFIC REQUESTS YET. HE EMPHASIZED THAT USG WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE, SHOULD MICRONESIANS INSIST, BUT TO FACILITATE VISIT. ARIMA APPEARED TO UNDERSTAND US PREDICAMENT. VANCE

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